

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A stapler comprising:

a movable clincher including a clincher piece disposed so as to be engageable with staple legs penetrated through binding sheets to a back surface side of the binding sheets, the ~~movable clincher piece~~ being disposed so as to be opposed to a striking position of a staple and to be rotatable; and

a clincher cam rotatable about a shaft including a cam surface directly engageable with the movable clincher so as to rotate the movable clincher, the clincher cam being driven through a drive link directly operated by a drive mechanism for driving a staple into the binding sheets.

Claim 2 (Original): The stapler according to claim 1, wherein the cam surface includes an arc-shaped part formed so as to have the same radius from the center of rotation of the clincher cam.

Claim 3 (Previously Presented): The stapler according to claim 1, further comprising:

a fixed cutter interposed between the staple legs penetrated through the binding sheets; and

a movable cutter disposed so as to be movable with respect to the fixed cutter from the outside of the staple legs toward the inside thereof,

wherein the staple legs penetrated through the binding sheets are guided into and between the movable cutter and fixed cutter, while the staple legs are engaged with movable clincher;

the leading end portions of the staple legs are cut due to the movement of the movable cutter from the outside of the staple legs toward the inside thereof; and

the movable clincher bends the staple legs with the leading end portions thereof cut along the back surfaces of the binding sheets;

a cutter cam engageable with the movable cutter and capable of driving the movable cutter,

wherein the clincher cam and the cutter cam are connected together as an integral body so that they can be rotated about the shaft with each other.

Claim 4 (Canceled).